

Chapter 12.1

Introduction to Asbestos Control

1. Applicability of Asbestos Control Requirements

You are required to follow Part 12 if you conduct any asbestos-related activities at JSC, Sonny Carter Training Facility, or Ellington Field whether as a JSC organization, a resident support contractor, or a construction and fixed-price contractor. JSC field sites follow equivalent requirements that also meet their state and local regulations.

2. About Part 12

The general provisions of Part 12 include:

- a. Part 12 specifies minimum acceptable standards and procedures for all JSC asbestos-related activities. It includes specific performance requirements for the most common asbestos-related tasks at JSC. The standards and procedures set forth are consistent with health and safety standards and procedures in industry and those established by OSHA, the EPA, and NASA. It also applies to other operations that may involve asbestos, even though they are not specifically cited in Part 12.
- b. Part 12 provides policy, procedures, and guidance for conducting asbestos-related activities at JSC with minimum risk to the employees involved and to building occupants. Part 12 identifies controls for protecting workers, work practices, and methods of minimizing asbestos release. Workers and employees who follow these controls will also prevent the unnecessary exposure of building occupants to unacceptable concentrations of asbestos.
- c. Generally, it is only necessary for a job supervisor or foreman to determine whether the work area is known to have ACMs and to select the appropriate procedures and controls necessary to perform the work. You can find an inventory of areas currently known to contain asbestos on the JSC Health Home Page at <http://sd.jsc.nasa.gov/omoh/scripts/OccupationalHealth/AsbestosInfo.aspx>
- d. Areas suspected to have ACM for which no data exist either shall be presumed to have ACM or have confirmatory bulk sampling and analysis completed before the work activity begins. Confirmatory sampling and analysis will be conducted by either the OHD or by the Center Operating Support Services (COSS) contractor. (See paragraphs 3.c, 3.d., and 3.e. below).
- e. JSC recognizes that some of the requirements within Part 12 procedures may add expense and time delays to procedures previously in place. This is the cost of providing the additional degree of control afforded within the asbestos control procedures to ensure the occupational safety and health of workers at JSC.
- f. Part 12 is organized to assist the job supervisor or foreman, hereinafter referred to as the originator, in accomplishing effective planning. Oversight and enforcement of the plan and the procedures established by Part 12 will be the responsibility of the APM (JE). The APM will rely heavily upon the OHD in monitoring conformance with the asbestos

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control procedures established by the individual procedures. In rare cases, the APM, Clinic Services Branch, or OHD will issue a stop-work order under the authority of Chapter 1.0, subparagraph 3.d of this handbook, if work practices do not provide sufficient protection to workers and building occupants.

3. How to use Part 12 for planning and conducting asbestos-related activities

Planning and conducting asbestos-related activities follows the basic steps listed below:

- a. The user establishes the job description and initiates the appropriate work order (e.g., work authorization document (WAD), modification, construction, rehabilitation, and repair (MCRR), Construction of Facilities Project). The user shall identify the asbestos hazard, if known, or request sampling assistance from the OHD to determine the hazard if the presence of asbestos is suspected but not known. The following apply:
 1. Any Construction of Facilities Project, WAD, or MCRR that will, or has the potential to, disturb facility or building materials shall have a written assessment from the OHD or COSS contractors on the presence or absence of ACM.
 2. The user shall involve the APM and the OHD in the planning, design, and construction of projects involving Class I and Class II asbestos work.
 3. All Class I and Class II projects shall have a formal design/work plan approved by an EPA-accredited project designer.
- b. The originator (usually the foreman or supervisor) determines whether the work area is identified in the JSC asbestos database as an area containing asbestos. Refer to the JSC Safety and Total Health Home Page at <http://sd.jsc.nasa.gov/omoh/scripts/OccupationalHealth/AsbestosInfo.aspx> for this listing.
- c. If the work area is not identified in the database, the originator or supervisor shall check with the APM or the OHD (x36726) to determine whether there is any other evidence of asbestos in the area.
- d. If no evidence can be found, the originator shall request the OHD perform bulk material sampling to determine the presence of asbestos. The OHD needs sufficient lead time, usually 3 weeks, to coordinate sampling, obtain analyses, and write a report.
- e. The COSS contractor shall collect bulk asbestos samples in support of its routine operations and maintenance activities and for WAD-generated minor construction. In lieu of sampling, the originator may presume asbestos-containing materials (PACMs) are present.
- f. If there is no ACM, PACM, or evidence of asbestos, the originator may proceed with the job as a normal non-asbestos job.
- g. If any work area is identified in the database or other evidence indicates the presence of ACM, the originator shall plan an asbestos-related activity using Part 12. The originator shall also identify the scope of the work to be performed.

- h. If asbestos is identified in the work area, but no procedure exists for the job to be performed, follow the alternative procedures of paragraphs 12.2.5 and 12.2.6 . The originator shall develop specific procedures for the job and have them approved by the APM and the OHD.
- i. If a procedure exists for the job, the originator or supervisor reviews the requirements of the procedure and develops the asbestos work permit (shown in Appendix 12A). Refer to Chapter 12.4 for the classes of asbestos work and to Chapter 12.15 and to Appendix 12B for job performance requirements of work to be performed. Work permits are not required for Class IV asbestos work. The permit may be used as a coordination or notification document by sending a facsimile copy to the identified JSC office.
- j. The originator or supervisor shall complete and sign the permit (see Appendix 12A), identifying the necessary controls.
- k. The competent person for the job shall also sign the permit. Give this permit to the individuals assigned to the task and keep it at the asbestos work site, as well as a copy of the appropriate job performance requirements from the attachments in Appendix 12B.
- l. Once the task is completed, return the work permit to the originator for recordkeeping. Maintain executed work permits for at least 1 year, and make them available to the APM upon request.
- m. All asbestos-related work requires supervision by a competent person. The appropriate employer shall designate the competent person for each asbestos-related job. Qualifications of the competent person are subject to review by the JSC APM, the JSC Clinic Services Branch, or their designated representatives.
- n. The competent person shall sign the work permit.
- o. During the actual job, perform on-site inspections and monitoring as required by the procedure. If the assigned competent person is not at the job site, he or she shall visit the job site periodically during the course of the work.
- p. Upon completion of the job, the originator conducts or requests clearance inspection and air monitoring, as required by the procedure.
- q. Upon satisfactory clearance inspection and air monitoring results, if required, the originator shall reestablish the work area and prepare and submit any documentation required by the procedure.